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Shirley's Snapshot: Where in the World?

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Where in the World?!?!??

I hope you don't get dizzy on this quick trip through the last few months of life on the move , we are gonna move pretty quickly...and If you think you can't make every stop along the way, at least scroll down to see where I am flying to in the next 4 days! Any guesses???

First Stop...a village far outside of Ndola

In April I had the opportunity to join with my local church in visiting a village and bringing some clothes and other supplies to encourage and reach out to the people there. We had a nice morning sharing the Word, praying together and then having a meal. There were about 30 ladies from my church who came together to bring clothes and items to the ladies in this area. It was quite a unique experience to spend the day together. Even with language barriers, the warmth and care that was communicated through prayers and hugs was encouraging!



Second Stop...Kabwe for Teen Street!

A fun-filled weekend that could be described as chaotic, prayerful, inspiring and exhausting filled with dancing, singing, praying, games, teaching and so much more. I was invited to be one of the main speakers for this weekend as well as lead a workshop. It was a joy to see the teenagers engaging with God in prayer, worshipping in song and dance and enjoying fellowship with one another through sport, small groups and so much more.

The power went during my morning to speak, so I got to use my 'teacher voice' to speak to an auditorium of 300+ teenagers. Did I mention the acoustics in the hall were a little less than ideal? Once I did my five minute opener, I turned to hand the mic to the worship team and realized there was no worship team because there was no electricity for the instruments and sound system. Seeing a 'keep rolling' sign from the guy in the back, I continued...not for 5 more minutes, not for 10 more minutes, not even for 30 more minutes, but for almost an additional 45 minutes-it was a message of waiting on the Lord for His Spirit...and I was amazed at how His Spirit met us as we actively waited on Him through prayer, song and scripture activities that He just kept dropping in my

heart until the power was restored.



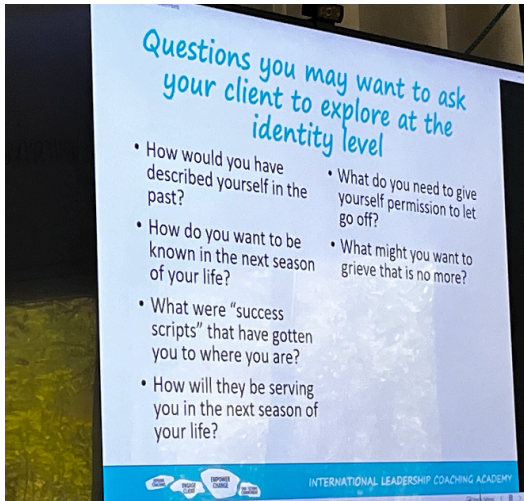
A Stop at home in Ndola :)

Time for Basketball, Chess nights with friends, prayer walks and some discipleship training with a group of 5 young people on the Africa Trek. When taking a few moments to talk with some school age children on our prayer walk through a nearby compound, we asked the children if they would like to pray with us. They immediately grabbed hands in the middle of the road and we prayed together for their families and of course that they would all do well in school as they requested. Would you take a moment to pray for one of the Zambian children or young people in the two pictures below . God knows them by name and what they need and I am sure He will stir your heart in the right direction. Thanks so much!



Next destination...Middle East

Connections and conversations with colleagues and friends and refreshers on some coaching training. I am in the process now of becoming an accredited coach, so if you happen to want to see what coaching is all about and help me get the hours and experience I need, I would be happy to offer a couple of sessions as I grow and develop in this skill and ministry.



Back to Ndola

A short stop at home was filled with some home renovations in hopes to curb the termite situation-they were starting to make very nice tunnels up my walls and taking

detours into my bamboo sheets, eating holes straight through them :(

Those days also allowed for time to have a few Bible Studies with the guys as well as the discovery of new Zambian Kwacha in the country! Before we only had bills up to 100 kwacha (about \$5) now there are 200 and 500 kwacha notes!!! This is so helpful so when withdrawing money we don't have such big piles of bills. On the other hand, it is easier for larger amounts of money to 'go missing.'

Somehow, k900 of my rent money from my very first withdrawal of new notes went missing from my wallet within 48 hours of withdrawing. I've been contemplating a lot lately on how Jesus and the disciples lived life with Judas knowing he was taking money from the bag...so many questions. Please pray that I am both wise and compassionate when situations like these arise.



I can't forget the wonderful chance to see these two from Lancaster County. It was really refreshing to get a couple visits in while they were across the pond in my neighborhood!

Which stop are we on now?

Not sure of the number, but the destination is Tanzania where I got to spend time with Taiwan and help with a Traffickwise training to equip people on how to identify and raise awareness about Modern Day Slavery.

Honestly, the information I learned in this training has changed the way I see

the world. Little by little it is also changing the way I do life and see how much God's heart is for the vulnerable. Everywhere I turn in scripture, even just this morning, I was reading about how the Lord arises when the poor are plundered and delivers and redeems the poor and needy from oppression and violence.

Since He is so involved in this work, it seems only natural for us, His children, to also work alongside Him against injustices, standing up for those who are vulnerable. If this stirs your heart, I'd love to have a conversation with you about even very small steps we can take to make a difference.

Here is an [eye opening documentary](#) for those of us who are willing to face some of life's harsher realities.



On to Lake Tanganyika

(Only four stops to go before you catch up to me!)

We had the joy of meeting with and training almost 20 women in the Self-Help Approach. These leaders have been engaged with their communities for years, starting groups that meet weekly to focus on spiritual growth, social change and economic development. Since we met with them last December, new groups have been added and their influence continues to bring light and hope in the villages around the Lake. I could sit with you for hours telling you about the many stories of lives changed around Lake Tanganyika, and it doesn't stop there. Two of the women drove 16 hours with us and then took their first ever plane ride to the next stop- Malawi-to train women there.





A Week in Malawi

Our time here, if I am honest, came with a lot of challenges. I'm pretty sure bedbugs stayed with me for about 5 days after leaving. There were a variety of misunderstandings and relational conflicts. In spite of the challenges it was a great joy to go over the basics of Self-Help Groups with the facilitators at the training. As they learned how to conduct Discovery Bible Studies, keep record books and grow in their listening and guiding skills as facilitators, you could see the joy in their hearts through the smiles on their faces and the way they interacted with the different learning activities. Just yesterday I got a report from one of the coordinators that there are already 3 new groups formed by one dedicated facilitator. Use this link [story of Eneles](#), to read more about it.

It was also amazing to see Rhoda and Peggy step into training others with such confidence and skill. I am so proud of these two ladies and would so appreciate you praying for them.



Love Africa 2025

On a campus where over 700 adults gathered to join in Kingdom Participation, I stayed involved in a few different ways. My responsibilities for the 8 days I

was a there included planning a workshop, leading another workshop, organizing the Library in a Container Project for possible movement to Ndola, transporting people to and from the airport (4 hours one way) prepping a leader for the Malawi Self-Help Groups who wasn't able to be in Malawi with us the whole time, meeting with the visiting Freedom Challenge women and helping to coordinate a few aspects of the conference itself. Needless to say, I was exhausted and left the time with an oncoming cold. One night's sleep back in my bed in Ndola before getting on a plane to the next stop.





Eswatini! My Second African Home!

The two weeks in Eswatini at Pasture Valley Children's Home could actually have it's own newsletter, what we experienced as a team, with the children, with the teachers and with the Lord could be a mini book!

One moment which was particularly tender was when Michelle stood up in church and read from Habakkuk 3.

You see, it was the Sunday morning after the Friday night when we had a big celebration dinner with the children that ended with the men and teenage boys dashing out of the room because a fire had started dangerously near to the farm. Thankfully, after about 5 hours, they were able to come back with news that the fire had been stopped.

It was the Sunday morning after the Saturday in which we had organized a big fun day for all the kids with games and lunch and clowns and songs and a short Bible lesson. Just as it was coming to a close, the men raced off again at the news that the boisterous wind had reignited the fire from the previous evening.

This time they spent 12 hours fighting. The result...a huge field of gum trees that were about to be harvested went up in a smoking blaze at around midnight and the men didn't get back to their beds until almost 5 am.

It was just hours after this, with a quiet, tearful, calm confidence that Michelle read these words.

Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail

and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.
GOD, the Lord, is my strength;

The week was full of so many wonderful moments, smiles, laughter, joy, deep and meaningful talks, games, serving, teaching, helping and the like. This moment of faith and trust in God will be etched in my heart for a very long time.



In the midst of all this...

Taiwan gave birth to two precious lives-Aleah and Alena. They were born at 27 weeks and Alena left us within 24 hours of her arrival. So many people have been so encouraging and prayerful and supportive of Taiwan and Francis during this time. I want to say a heartfelt thank you and would give each one a hug if I could. If you'd like to get more regular updates, please let me know. You

can also read more about their arrival at home after 6 weeks in the hospital here on their [GOFUNDME page](#).



Last stop before back to Zambia...South Africa

It was the Global week of Prayer 1-7 September and I got to spend that time in South Africa. I was able to join in a few of the prayer events and also spent time with a colleague adjusting one of our community development curriculums for the African context. It took a lot of energy and thinking, but what I really appreciated were the moments when our minds and hearts were spent and tired and then the Lord just dropped ideas and inspiration on the table and put a smile on our faces. We still have a good amount of work to do on this curriculum, but it was a great start!

NOW WHAT?!?!??!

What is the next stop?

USA...here I come!

Montana from September 19 - October 10

I'll be speaking at Glasgow Evangelical Church on October 5 in the morning and then hosting an African dinner in the evening full with stories and a Q & A time.

Pennsylvania from October 25 - November 7

Speaking at Reamstown Church of God on Sunday evening, Nov. 2nd.

Capron, VA Sunday, November 16th

I will be somewhere on the east coast (PA, VA, WV, NC, maybe SC) from Nov. 8th - 24th when I fly back to Zambia.

If you are in the area (any of the areas where I will be), I'd love to see you. Please let me know if you'd like to plan a visit!

Connection and Prayer

As I am sure you have noticed, my newsletters only manage to get written 3, maybe 4 times in a year and they are WAY TOO LONG!!! I am even surprised that you made it this far! There is so much that is happening, it is often challenging for me to sit down for the 5-8 hours it takes for me to go through pictures and write about it all...I don't even write about the half of it to be honest ;)

IF

you would like to get shorter, more frequent updates and you are willing to download the WhatsApp Application on your phone, then please [EMAIL ME](#) with your phone number and I will add you to an updates list when I will send out shorter and more frequent news updates either in video, voice, picture or text formats.

IF

you would like to commit to praying for me on a regular basis and receive more personal prayer requests on updates on a weekly basis, use this link to

[JOIN MY PRAYER TEAM.](#)

God is doing so much and I know recently it is because we are praying more intentionally into specific situations. I am so grateful for those who are journeying with me in prayer and would love for this to grow so we can celebrate more and more of what God is doing together!

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Thank you so much for joining with me in prayer for the work God is doing in Zambia. I am so grateful for your partnership.

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